

Commercial fishers 19 August 2019

COMMERCIAL FISHING PERMIT APPLICATION PROCESS FOR 2020–2024

Leasing of salmon and trout fishing sites for commercial fishers in the Finnish economic zone and in Finnish public water areas at sea

According to sections 8, 41 and 45 of the Fishing Act (379/2015), Metsähallitus decides upon the right to fish in state-owned public water areas. As authorised by section 8 of the Fishing Act, Metsähallitus leases salmon and trout fishing sites in the Finnish economic zone and in public water areas at sea for commercial fishing.

The valid salmon and trout fishing site permit decisions and lease agreements in state-owned public water areas at sea administered by Metsähallitus expire on 31 December 2019.

Fishing site lease agreements may only be applied for using the attached application form. Carefully complete all sections of the application, confirm them with your signature and send the application and attachments to Metsähallitus Registry using the return address indicated at the end of application. The application period ends on 13 September 2019. Incomplete applications, applications without a certificate showing that the applicant is listed on the ELY Centre's register of commercial fishers or applications that arrive late will be processed on a secondary basis.

General principles related to granting leases for fishing sites

The central principles related to leasing Metsähallitus fishing sites and who is given priority in terms of receiving permits.

- The permit application process is announced at 5-year intervals.
- Applications that arrive by the application date indicated in the announcement will be processed on a priority basis. Applications that arrive late or are incomplete will be processed as secondary applications.
- Commercial fishers in Group 1 will be prioritised over commercial fishers in Group 2 when granting permits.
- Local commercial fishers will be given priority in terms of receiving permits. The applicant's locality is mainly determined on the basis of their municipality of residence.
- The applicant's other fishing opportunities, such as the possibility to fish in the waters of a joint-ownership association, may affect the granting of a permit. The applicants' fishing possibilities as a whole will be taken into consideration when granting permits.
- A maximum of 6 fishing sites/fisher will be leased in the main basin of the Baltic Sea and in the Gulf of Bothnia salmon quota area and a maximum of 6 fishing sites/fisher in the Gulf of Finland salmon quota area.
- Fishing sites will only be leased to commercial fishers who have an operator-specific salmon quota.
- A fisher's previous fishing history in the area or site in question (in other words, local knowledge) is considered an advantage.
- The lease agreement is personal and it may not be handed over or leased to a third party.
- The terms of the lease agreement include the obligation to comply with the EU's common fisheries policy and national fishing regulations in all fishing activities. The leasing party must immediately inform Metsähallitus if the party stops fishing during the lease period, there are changes in the extent of fishing, or the leased fishing site is not taken into use during the lease period. If the fishing site is partly or completely located in a Finnish Defence Forces restricted area, it may not be taken into use without a restricted area permit issued by the Finnish Defence Forces.
- In addition to the general terms of lease, the lease agreements may include various regional restrictions if these are considered necessary.

- The lease agreement can be cancelled during the application period due to misconduct, violations of legislation or changes in legislation.
- Failure to use a leased fishing site without justification will weaken the applicant's possibilities to obtain future lease agreements. One of the targets of leasing fishing sites is the appropriate use of the leased fishing sites.

How to apply

Use the attached form to apply for fishing sites. Attach a detailed map showing the location of the fishing sites outlined in the application.

The application must be submitted by 16:00 on 13 September 2019 to the following address:

Metsähallitus, Registry, P.O. Box 94, 01301

VANTAA or by e-mail: kirjaamo@metsa.fi

Prices

The price for a salmon and trout fishing site is 50 euros (+ 24% VAT) per year. The customer will be invoiced for the fishing site permits in accordance with the number of fishing sites each year prior the start of the fishing season.

Further information:

Marine areas north of Kokkola : Game and Fisheries Planner Kari Sarajarvi, kari.sarajarvi@metsa.fi, +358 400 296 113

Marine areas south of Kokkola : Specialist Mikko Malin, mikko.malin@metsa.fi, +358 40 837 7548

ATTACHMENTS Available at: <https://www.eraluvat.fi/kalastus/kaupallinen-kalastus.html>

Application form

DISTRIBUTION

Permit and lease holders

FOR INFORMATION

ELY Fisheries sector services

Finland Fishermen's Association

Federation of Finnish Fisheries Associations